

James Madison to James Madison Sr., December 3, 1784. Transcription: The Writings of James Madison, ed. Gaillard Hunt. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1900-1910.

TO JAMES MADISON. MAD. MSS.

Richmond, Decr. 3, 1784.

Hon'd Sir, —My last informed you that a vote had passed in favor of Circuit Courts. A bill has since been brought in and will shortly be considered. The difficulty of suiting it to every palate, & the many latent objections of a selfish & private nature which will shelter themselves under some plausible objections of a public nature to which every innovation is liable render the event extremely uncertain. In the Course of this week The H. of D. have agreed to, pay the British debts by annual portions for 7 years disallowing interest between the 19th. of Apl. 1775 & 3d. of March 1783, the period of hostilities. It is not unlikely that the same observations above made on the Circuit Court bill may be applicable to this case. The bill for Gentl. Asst. was brought in yesterday. Its fate is equally uncertain. I inclose a copy of Treaty at Fort Stanwix which I recd. by yesterdays post. The Comissrs. were proceeding to Fort Pitt to hold another Treaty: No Congs. had been formed on the 20th of Novr. nor much prospect of a speedy one. The British hold the N. Western Post yet & assign in justification the breach of Peace in Virga. & N. York. I am much better than at ye date of my last & with affece. respect to family remain

Yr Dutiful Son.